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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/162

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 53/162 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly requested me to continue my discussions with the Government of Myanmar on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy and to submit additional reports to the Assembly during its fifty-third session on the progress of these discussions, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session.

2. The Commission will be aware from my report to the General Assembly (A/53/657) of the actions that I have taken in light of developments in Myanmar in July 1998. Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, met Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw on 25 September 1998 at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, the Foreign Minister conveyed

his Government's positive response to a proposal, made in July, to have Mr. de Soto visit Yangon as my Special Envoy. Mr. de Soto visited Yangon from 27 to 30 October 1998 and held consultations with Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Brigadier-General David Abel. He also held discussions with Central Executive Committee members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), including its General Secretary, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. These consultations are described in my report to the General Assembly. However, it has not been possible to arrange for senior-level contacts with the SPDC since the adoption of resolution 53/162 by the General Assembly.

3. Efforts are currently being undertaken for a visit to Myanmar by my Special Envoy in the month of May. The responsibility for fact-finding and reporting on the human rights situation in Myanmar rests with the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights for that purpose. The mandate entrusted to me by the General Assembly is one of good offices central to which is the high-level dialogue with the SPDC and other parties. I will therefore report to the General Assembly and to the Commission, as appropriate and timely, in light of the continuation of that dialogue.

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